

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 SY-05 USSS-00 EB-08 FAA-00
DOTE-00 /103 W

-----101454 141459Z /41

R 141411Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 965
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2897

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MILI
SUBJECT: REPORTED FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR ANTI-TERRORIST
FORCE IN PERSIAN GULF

REF: (A) TEHRAN 4501 (NOTAL), (B) USCINCEUR 101145Z MAY 78
(NOTAL), (C) ABU DHABI 1310 (NOTAL).

1. KUWAIT DAILY AL-SIYASAH OF MAY 10 CARRIES A REPORT
SEEMING TO RELATE RECENT SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER'S TALKS
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ON GULF SECURITY IN IRAN AND IRAQ TO AN ALLEGED FRENCH
PROPOSAL, MADE IN MARCH, FOR THE CREATION OF A JOINT
AIRBORNE SECURITY FORCE DESIGNED TO "RESIST TERRORIST
ACTION, INCLUDING PROTECTION OF OIL WELLS IN THE GULF."
THIS STORY ALLEGES THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL WAS MADE FIRST
TO EGYPT, THEN TO SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, AND THAT FRANCE
ENVISIONS FORMATION OF TWO REGIONAL SECURITY UNITS, ONE

ORGANIZED BY THE EC-9 AND THE OTHER BY MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES, INCLUDING IRAQ. THE FRENCH PLAN IS ALLEGED TO HAVE USG BLESSING.

2. ABOVE REPORT ON FRENCH PROPOSAL DREW OUR ATTENTION IN CONTEXT OF REPORTS (INCLUDING REF B) OF CURRENT FRENCH INTEREST IN ORGANIZING BETTER FOR MILITARY JOINT OPERATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ALSO, KUWAITI PAPERS OF MAY 7 CARRY A REPORT ON A PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE IRANIAN MIN/INFO IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY ALLUDED TO TALKS "IN THE EARLY STAGES" AMONG ELEVEN OR TWELVE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION REGARDING "ANTI-TERRORISM COOPERATION." MOREOVER, EMBASSY ABU DHABI HAS NOTED OTHER PRESS STORIES ALONG THIS LINE (REF C).

3. COMMENT: IF THERE ARE (OR ARE TO BE) GULF TALKS ON COOPERATION AGAINST TERRORISM, THIS STRIKES US AS A GOOD "PEG" FOR FUTURE DEMARCHES ON THE ANTI-HIJACKING CONVENTIONS, BOTH BY OURSELVES AND BY GULF COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE RATIFIED THE CONVENTIONS.
SUTHERLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, MILITARY BUILDUP, PARAMILITARY FORCES, OIL FIELDS, TERRORISTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUWAIT02897
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780204-0910
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780560/aaaabzcm.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 26a21c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TEHRAN 4501, 78 ABU DHABI 1310
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2697413
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR ANTI-TERRORIST FORCE IN PERSIAN GULF
TAGS: ENRG, PEPR, MILI, KU, FR, IR, IZ
To: STATE ABU DHABI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/26a21c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014